

Remarks

This is in response to the Office Action dated September 29, 2006.

Per the above amendment, claims 3, 5, and 8 have been amended and new claims 13-16 added.

With the amendment to claim 3, it is believed that the 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph rejection thereof has been overcome.

Claims 3-5 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Vallone et al (US 6847778); claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Vallone in view of Tsumagari et al (US 6360057); and claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Vallone in view of Geer et al (US 6788882).

In support of the rejection to claims 3-5 and 8, the Examiner alleges (at the upper half of page 5 in the Office Action) that Vallone et al. (US 6,847,778) teach the following matters by stating:

(1) [T]he user can choose to press the replay button 1415 more than once; therefore the previous time points are selected in a sequential manner.

(2) When the user presses the replay button 1415 for a first time, the playback point "repositions ten seconds backwards into the cache bar 2602", therefore, the specified point is closest to the current time; e.g. ten seconds from the current time.

(3) When the user operates the replay button 1415 twice within a short period, the playback point should reposition to twice the time span as set in the system, i.e. twenty seconds. The specified point is now twenty seconds from the current time.

Regarding the above item (1), the applicants agree with the Examiner that the user can choose to press the replay button 1415 more than once. But Vallone does not teach that the previous time points are selected in a sequential manner. A careful review of

Vallone fails to disclose anything about what will happen when the replay button 1415 is pressed more than once.

Regarding the above item (2), applicants agree with the Examiner that Vallone, at col. 19, lines 22-33, teaches the contents of the item (2).

Regarding the above item (3), conceivably the user can operate the replay button 1415 twice within a short period. However, Vallone does not teach that when the user operates the replay button 1415 twice within a short period, the playback point should reposition to twice the time span as set in the system, i.e. twenty seconds. A careful reading of Vallone discloses nothing about what will happen when the user operates the replay button 1415 twice within a short period.

Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's allegation about the disclosure of Vallone for the rejection to claims 3-5 and 8 is in error.

Regarding the above item (3), the Examiner introduces the condition that the user operates the replay button 1415 twice within a short period. The actions in question in the above items (1) and (3) are that the previous time points are selected in a sequential manner when the replay button is pressed more than once, and the playback point should reposition to twice the time span as set in the system, i.e. twenty seconds when the replay button is operated twice within a short period. Generally, in order to implement these actions, it is necessary to provide software (a computer program) with a complicated sequence of steps, for example, a first step of measuring the lapse of time from the last press of the replay button, a second step of deciding whether or not the measured lapse of time reaches a predetermined short period, a third step of deciding whether or not the replay button is pressed again before the measured lapse of time reaches the predetermined short period, a fourth step of incrementing, by 1, the detected number of times the replay button is pressed successively in cases where the replay button is pressed again before the measured lapse of time reaches the predetermined short period, and a

fifth step of performing instant replay having a time length proportional to the detected number of times the replay button is pressed successively in cases where the measured lapse of time reaches the predetermined short period while the replay button remains not pressed again. It is respectfully submitted that Vallone does not teach steps equivalent to the above-indicated steps. Therefore, Vallone does not teach the actions in question in the above items (1) and (3).

As indicated in the above item (2), the Examiner states that in Vallone, the specified time point is ten seconds from the current time. This means that the specified time point in Vallone shifts in accordance with the current time and hence depends on the current time. According to the previously-indicated amendments to claims 3, 5, and 8, the specified time points are independent of the present time.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 3, 5, and 8 are not anticipated by Vallone. Further, as claim 4 depends from claim 3, claim 3 also is not anticipated by Vallone.

Regarding the rejection to claim 11, the Examiner refers to entry points in Tsumagari et al. (US 6,360,057) as analogies to the specified time points. As shown in Fig. 36 of Tsumagari, every entry point denotes the start or end of recording. On the other hand, in claim 3 from which claim 11 depends, the specified time points are after the beginning of the recording.

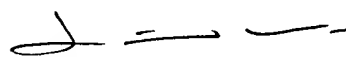
Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 11 is patentable over Vallone and Tsumagari.

New claims 15, 16, and 17 recite that each of the specified time points is independent of the beginning of the recording. This limitation is not taught by Tsumagari.

Claim 12 depends from claim 3. As claim 3 is believed not anticipated by Vallone and is thus patentable, claim 12 accordingly is also believed to be patentable over the combination of Vallone and Geer et al.

In view the foregoing, the examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application and pass the case to issue at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,



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